

From: Eric_C_Irwin@email.whirlpool.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I feel the settlement that is being proposed is a bad idea. It seems that it only further improves Microsofts position as a monopoly in the computer software business.

The money being donated to schools sounds like a good idea, but Microsoft is getting off cheap. Here is one of the richest companies in the world and getting richer everyday. They are placing a value on their software that is way above the actual cost to them. Once the software has been donated, that does nothing to train the teachers that will be using it. This also further entrenches them in the education market. When it comes time to update that software, who do you think will get the revenue? It is almost like Microsoft is investing in the school system instead of paying a penalty for their practices.

I do not know enough about the technical side of the proposal to open Microsoft systems to developers. I would say that Microsoft has done a lot in the past to close out developers and make changes to their own systems so that they exclude other software. If they have done this all along, what makes us think that a couple of auditors could keep up with them now. This industry changes so rapidly that Microsoft will soon be able to live by the "letter of the agreement", but work around it to close people out again.

I don't know what the answer is, but this slap on the wrist is nothing to the Bully of the Market.

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